

Subject: Re: Request National Policy, Evacuation Hoods, Fire Extinguisher
Date: Tue, 2 Apr 2002 08:55:13 -0500
From: laura.doyle@gsa.gov
To: imr@prodigy.net

This is it. I asked if Stewart planned to put it in another format and he said no. If you have any questions give him a call on 202-501-4077.
Thanks.

----- Forwarded by Laura E. Doyle/WPY/RW/GSA/GOV on 04/02/02 08:54 AM -----

Stewart J. To: Sharon R.Jenkins/WPY/RW/GSA/GOV@GSA
Levy cc: David W.Frable/5PMFS/R05/GSA/GOV@GSA,
 Edward A. Feiner/PC/CO/GSA/GOV@GSA,Paul M.
03/22/02 03:55 Lynch/PX/CO/GSA/GOV@GSA, Debra W.
PM Yap/PX/CO/GSA/GOV@GSA, Laura E.Doyle/WPY/RW/GSA/GOV@GSA,
 Steven P.Richard/WPY/RW/GSA/GOV@GSA
Subject: Re: Request National Policy, Evacuation Hoods,
 Fire Extinguisher(Document link: Laura E. Doyle)

Evacuation Hoods:

It is generally GSA's practice to evacuate buildings experiencing life threatening conditions created by fire, chemical or hazardous environmental conditions, or the threat of these conditions. The use of these type of devices encourages personnel to remain in the building to perform what they believe are necessary functions due to the circumstances.

The performance of duties under life threatening conditions has potentially, serious consequences. There would be some significant questions asked, in the event of an injury or death of a person performing functions under the described conditions.

Some of these questions might be:

- Why was the person remaining in the building?
- Was it part of their official responsibilities as described in their Position Description?
- Was there adequate (or any) training provided?
- Was there periodic refresher training provided?
- Who certified the protective device used?
- Was the device used under the intended conditions for use?
- Who is responsible for the death or injury?
- What is the liability associated with the death or injury?

These are just a few of the concerns associated with the use of these types of devices. Therefore, it has been the practice of GSA to evacuate the buildings of all personnel under emergency conditions and allow the trained professionals that respond to the incident attend to those remaining inside.

If an agency wishes their personnel to use such devices, that agency needs to be able to answer the former questions prior to condoning the use of those devices. I would also suggest that prior to allowing an agency use those devices, there be a ruling from Legal as to responsibility and liability. Especially since it is the GSA practice not to allow such devices.

2. Fire Extinguishers:

It is the practice of GSA not to encourage the use of fire extinguishers in Federal Buildings. OSHA requires initial and refresher training for those designated to use fire extinguishers and GSA does not routinely provide that training.

It is generally GSA's practice to evacuate buildings experiencing life threatening conditions created by fire. The use of fire extinguishers by untrained personnel can have the following effects:

1. Maybe, they put out the fire, minimizing damage and injury. This is not likely.

2. Without training, several things usually occur;

People delay in calling the Fire Department because they assume the fire extinguisher person knows what they are doing and will put out the fire.

With out training, what looks easy usually leads to the fire either not being extinguished and the person becoming injured trying.

Now, the fire is bigger, the fire department was delayed, and the damage is more significant and we have an injured person.

The performance of duties under life threatening conditions has potentially, serious consequences. There would be some significant questions asked, in the event of an injury or death of a person performing functions under the described conditions.

Some of these questions might be:

Why was the person remaining in the building?

Was it part of their official responsibilities as described in their Position Description?

Was there adequate (or any) training provided?

Was there periodic refresher training provided?

Who is responsible for the death or injury?

What is the liability associated with the death or injury?

These are just a few of the concerns associated with the use of extinguishers. Therefore, it has been the practice of GSA to evacuate the buildings of all personnel under emergency conditions and allow the trained professionals that respond to the incident attend to those remaining inside.

GSA does provide extinguishers under certain circumstances, usually resulting in GSA's willingness to conform to local standards to the extend practical.

These responses are interpretations as I understand and promote them. If you have any other specific questions, please forward them to me and if necessary, I can obtain an official interpretation and response from our legal office.

Thanks,

Stewart...

Stewart J. Levy
Senior Fire Protection Engineer
Office of Business Operations - PX
(202) 501-4077 - Office
1800-745-6844 - Message Center

Sharon R. To: Edward A.Feiner/PC/CO/GSA/GOV@GSA, Paul
Jenkins M. Lynch/PX/CO/GSA/GOV@GSA
 cc: David W.Frable/5PMFS/R05/GSA/GOV@GSA,
03/22/02 Stewart J. Levy/PX/CO/GSA/GOV@GSA
02:57 PM Subject: Request National Policy, Evacuation
 Hoods, Fire Extinguisher

I don't understand why I need to forward this on behalf of our Safety, Environment, and Fire Protection Branch (seems overly bureaucrat to me), but this is what we were instructed to do. Based on your request I'm forwarding Laura's e-mail to me.

Please provide your response directly to Laura.

Thanks for your help.

----- Forwarded by Sharon R. Jenkins/WPY/RW/GSA/GOV on 03/22/2002 02:41 PM-----

Laura E. To: Sharon R.Jenkins/WPY/RW/GSA/GOV@GSA
Doyle cc: Steven P.Richard/WPY/RW/GSA/GOV@GSA
 Subject: Request National Policy, Evacuation
03/22/2002 Hoods, Fire Extinguisher
10:15 AM

Sharon, I asked Dave Frable to provide a national policy on evacuation hoods. Several agencies are interested in purchasing these pieces of equipment for their floor wardens and physically disabled occupants. In order for Dave to respond, he needs you to forward a request to Ed Finer's Office. Can you forward the following to Ed's Office?

There are two issues that NCR's Safety, Environment and Fire Protection Engineering Branch would like the National Office Fire Protection Engineers to address in a national policy.

Use of Evacuation Hoods Please state our national policy on the use of evacuation hoods such as the EvacU8 Hood. Please include whether occupant emergency team members, physically disabled occupants, or building managers should be provided with these hoods.

Use of Fire Extinguishers: Please state our national policy regarding whether GSA requires extinguishers in buildings and whether we recommend that building occupant use of fire extinguishers. Please address code requirements and training requirements.

If you have any questions, please call Laura Doyle, Team Leader, Safety, Environment and Fire Protection Engineering Branch on 202-708-5250.